

Destruction of the Divine History of the Unification Movement

Jongsuk Kim

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If we understand the “divine” or the “holy” (sacredness) as a psychological state resulting from an unusual experience of a particular phenomenon, feelings such as fear, horror, trembling, infinite love and grace, and meeting God, are some of the sentiments that human beings claim to have experienced when relating to nature or when dealing with the undefinable divine.

In April 1935, the founder of Unification Movement had a divine experience to meet Jesus and receive a mission to save humankind. The mission that he received was to reveal the root of sin, and to establish a world of peace, a paradise on Earth where sin and corruption no longer exist. The experience of the “divine” by the founder is the root of the identity and the holy history of the Unification Movement. The founder aimed to build “the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth” with an ideal “True Family (founder’s family)” of God’s “restored” lineage and expand this foundation throughout the world. The Unification Movement’s system of beliefs and rituals were both the result of the practices and justifications of the faith of the restoration of lineage. This represents the identity of the founder, and the source of the themes of the holy history of the Unification Movement which would unfold thereafter.

On April 11, 1960, the founder, who was a divorced man of the age of 40, chose a 17-year-old girl, Hak Ja Han to be his bride in holy marriage (“wedding feast of the lamb”). The founder convinced that he was born of the pure lineage of God and that Hak Ja Han had been born of a “fallen lineage.” Once they were married they would have True Children, thus completing the True Family, which the founder states is the “ideal of creation (God’s ideal)” as the model for world salvation, then finally expand ideal restored families throughout the entire world to complete his mission as the savior.

After the Founder’s wedding feast of the lamb (Holy Marriage Ceremony), the members of the Unification Movement participated in the Blessing Marriage Ceremony in mass in the position of the Founder’s children. The Blessing Marriage Ceremonies started in 1961 with 36 couples, and by 2000, the claim is that there has been millions of blessed families. Blessing Ceremonies continue to be held to this day. The Unification Movement’s Blessing Ceremony can be defined as the culmination of the traditions and rituals of the Unification Movement, and the representative identity of the Movement. The ceremony is oriented toward a larger objective than the mere salvation at the family level, and aiming for the “restoration of lineage” and “realizing the peaceful ideal world”.

On May 1, 1994, the founder proclaimed the end of the “era of religion” led by the “Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity” and proclaimed a new “era beyond religion” with the launching of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). And the founder changed the nature of the organizations and lineage restoration ceremonies he founded to move away from being sectarian or particular to one specific religion. From that time on, non-members of the Unification Movement who supported the True Family’s movement could also participate in the Blessing Wedding Ceremony.

On December 3rd of 1997, the Republic of Korea went through a financial crisis with the threat of national bankruptcy. Around this time, major affiliate companies of the Unification Movement’s “Tongil Group” became serially bankrupt. This was the biggest financial crisis faced by the Unification Movement. There was a possibility that the Unification Movement’s major assets could have been completely wiped out.

In December of 1997, the founder’s eldest son Hyo Jin Moon officially divorced Nansook Hong. As a result, the entire Unification Movement in the United States received a direct hit, and the effect was felt in Korea as well. The founder was approaching eighty years of age and he was in a conundrum with the Unification Movement facing the greatest threats to date, both inside and outside the organization. The Movement was in desperate need of a breakthrough.

In this period of extreme difficulty for the Movement, on July 19, 1998, the founder inaugurated his third son, Hyun Jin Preston Moon, as the International Vice-President of the Family Federation. This was the founder's attempt to pass on his charisma and continue on with the Movement's divine history. Hyun Jin Preston Moon had shown the most promise as a candidate to succeed the founder.

Hyun Jin Preston Moon's leadership was shown to be consistent with the founder's historical perception and he demonstrated strong leadership skills which he would apply for the success of the Movement. But he confronted the resistance of those who would not embrace the paradigm shift towards a more universal model.

Starting from 2005, the division of the founder's family started to take place. As soon as Hyun Jin Preston Moon's younger brothers, Kook Jin Moon and Hyung Jin Sean Moon became major leaders in various organizations of the Unification Movement (including the Family Federation) under the patronage of their mother Hak Ja Han Moon, they began to actively hinder and condemn Hyun Jin Preston Moon's activities. One of the main examples of such hindrance includes the many legal battles in several continents and the false spirit world message that the Family Federation leadership fabricated to undermine Preston's relationship with his father. These events developed into serious conflicts in the founder's family. In this way, Preston Moon was expelled by Kook Jin Moon, Hyung Jin Sean Moon and Hak Ja Han in 2009. Later, Kook Jin Moon and Hyung Jin Sean Moon themselves were expelled by Hak Ja Han from their positions in the Family Federation and Tongil Foundation.

Considering the situation of the founder's divided family and the founder's words, it is evident that Hak Ja Han did not support her son Preston Moon's succession and that the conflict between the founder and Hak Ja Han was serious before founder's death. The greatest cause of the conflict was that Hak Ja Han denied the identity of the founder's lineage and had an excessive desire to dominate the Unification Movement. In conclusion, Hak Ja Han's distrust of the founder led to the expulsion of Preston Moon by the leadership of the Family Federation and even to the unfortunate death of the founder. Which, in turn, led to the destruction of the sacred history of Unification Movement by the Family Federation's promoting Hak Ja Han's new identity as the only Begotten Daughter—a new theory that denies the founder's very identity.

Immediately after the death of the founder, Hak Ja Han and some leaders dismantled the Eight Great Textbooks that the founder had established as the official scriptures of Unification Movement. She created three new scriptures: the *Revised Cheon Seong Gyeong*, *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong* and *Cham Bumo Gyeong* with the revelation of her new identity as the core of the content.

Hak Ja Han started to make claims of her new identity right after the death of the founder. That identity was that of the "Only Begotten Daughter". Hak Ja Han claimed that she is the Only Begotten Daughter, born without original sin, while the founder was born *with* original sin. Therefore, she states that it was due to the only begotten daughter marrying the founder that she was the one who restored the founder's lineage. This was completely different from the identity, teachings, tradition, and the divine history of the Unification Movement.

Some Unification theologians are currently developing a certain logic in order to justify the ideology of Hak Ja Han's Only Begotten Daughter theory, and portraying the founder as having a come from a fallen lineage. The most representative person is professor Jinchun Kim who wrote a thesis on this very topic. Professor Jinchun Kim publicly stated that the founder was born from fallen lineage and has original sin. In particular, on May 29 of this year, at the International Conference to study the Unification Movement in Belgium, Dr. Mickler of Hak Ja Han's Family Federation stated that he believed that Rev. Moon was born with original sin.

As mentioned above, ever since he recognized his calling in April 1935, all religious events from the founder were oriented towards a single goal. This purpose was to realize the ideal of Heaven on Earth through creating the true family, something that Adam and Eve had failed to realize due to the Fall. But Hak Ja Han is creating a new religion with a different divine history by breaking down the founder's divine history. Members of the Unification Movement are observing how the founder's divine history that was dismantled by Hak Ja Han will be changed and discarded or will be regenerated in the future.